



Millions Available to Towns for Hazard Mitigation

The state of Vermont currently has more than \$10 million in federal hazard mitigation grants to help towns make improvements to flood prone areas, they simply need to ask.

No town is immune from damages caused by natural disasters, and most know from history and science where some of that damage is likely to be, even before storms hit. Those areas that are most susceptible to repetitive damage cost towns money, even with a federal disaster declaration there is a local 25% cost match, so making those areas more flood resistant saves communities countless dollars in future repair costs.

There's an adage that states the best defense is a good offense. That may not always be true (ask the Kansas City Chiefs after this past year's Super Bowl) but when it comes to flood damage, that is often the case. Hazard mitigation funding is your chance to keep floodwaters and other hazards away from homes, roads, and other public infrastructure; and taking a bite out of your annual road budget.

It takes very little time and effort to get the process rolling, town officials can simply email Vermont Emergency Management at DPS.HazardMitigation@vermont.gov to inquire about what projects may qualify and how to start the application process.

VEM is currently managing a number of grant programs that meet a variety of town needs:

Flood Resilient Communities Fund

This fund was established by the Vermont Legislature to improve landscape and community resilience, and reducing future impacts to public safety and water quality caused by climate-related flood hazards in Vermont, focusing on voluntary buyouts of flood-vulnerable properties. \$4,636,000 is available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for projects under the Flood Resilient Communities Fund in fiscal year 2022. ARPA funding is required to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Committees (BRIC)

This grant program to states and local communities is for mitigation activities. The funding available is \$1,000,000 for federal share set-aside for Vermont with up to \$500,000 available for planning activities. Funding can be used for Project Scoping to project implementation. Up to \$50 million is available per sub-application for nationally competitive mitigation projects. The deadline to apply is December 17th, 2021.

BRIC funding is also available to municipalities across Vermont to create or update Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs). The deadline to apply is December 3rd, 2021. Any community interested should contact Caroline.Massa@Vermont.gov to get the process started. Check the status of your community's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan at foodready.vermont.gov. It is advised to apply for funding 2-3 years before your plan expires.

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Hazard Mitigation—continued

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Funding is opening for the major disaster declared for the COVID-19 pandemic. President Biden has authorized FEMA to provide the State of Vermont funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) with a contribution of \$13.4 million. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with a likely deadline in the summer of 2022. This fund was established by the Vermont Legislature under Act 74 with the intent of improving landscape and community resilience and reducing the future public safety and water quality impacts of climate-related flood hazards in Vermont, focusing on voluntary buyouts of flood-vulnerable properties. This program will prioritize projects that are not eligible for FEMA funding. Available funding is \$4.6 million in fiscal year 2022. Round one of applications anticipated in October 2021 and round two January 2022.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

These grants fund states, local communities, tribes, and territories to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Up to \$900,000 is available per State for Project Scoping to develop community flood mitigation projects that reduce future NFIP flood claims. Up to \$70 million can be applied for per sub-applicant for Community Flood Mitigation Projects to address community flood risk to reduce future NFIP flood claims. The application deadline of Friday, December 17, 2021.

To find out more, visit: vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation. Questions can be directed to: DPS.HazardMitigation@vermont.gov.

Vermont Receives Disaster Declaration—Applicant Briefings Scheduled

Applicant briefings for communities in Bennington and Windham counties that intend to apply for disaster recovery funds following the storm of July 29-30 have been scheduled in person and on-line. The in-person meetings will be held in Manchester Center and Townshend.

On September 29th President Joseph Biden has signed a Major Disaster declaration that will provide federal assistance for repairs to public infrastructure in Bennington and Windham counties. Municipalities and qualifying non-profits like public utilities in Bennington and Windham counties are eligible to receive 75% federal reimbursement for storm response and recovery. Those costs include repairs to public roads, bridges, and other infrastructure that was damaged during the storm, as well as removal of debris from public rights of way.

Towns in Bennington and Windham counties that wish to apply must attend one of the applicant briefings on the following days and times:

Tuesday, October 5th, 10:30 am, Townshend Town Hall, 2006 Route 30 in Townshend

Wednesday, October 6th, 9 am, ONLINE. For meeting information town officials should contact kim.canarecci@vermont.gov.

Thursday, October 7th, 11 am, Park House in Manchester Center 340 Recreation Park Road, Manchester Center

Towns are advised to continue to document damages and work completed.

VEM Training Schedule

Save-The Date for the January Day of Learning
Lake Morey Resort on Thursday, January 20th for
our January Day of Learning. Details to come!

October 2021

MGT 323 – Instructor Development Workshop – Virtual

October 4-8, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Must attend all sessions to receive credit.

Registration required <https://train.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Student/Register?ClassID=27893>

Please use access code: NCBRT323

Introduction to Operational Planning: Comprehensive Planning Guide (CPG) 101 Overview- Virtual

October 14, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) - In Person

Norwich Fire Department

October 19 & 20, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: IS-120

Must attend all sessions to receive credit.

Registration required via the State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

SEOC Center Support Section Training- Virtual

October 26, 2021, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100, SEOC Orientation and WebEOC

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training.

SEOC Mission and Resource Support Section Training- Virtual

October 27, 2021, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100, SEOC Orientation and WebEOC

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training.

November 2021

Amtrak Passenger Train Emergency Response Training- In Person

Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department

November 3, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Amtrak Passenger Train Emergency Response Training- In Person

West Rutland Town Hall

November 4, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Amtrak Passenger Train Emergency Response Training- In Person

Chittenden Regional Planning Commission,
Winooski

November 5, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ICS 400- Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff – In Person

Camp Johnson, Colchester

November 6-7, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-300

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

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VEM Training Calendar—Continued

SEOC Orientation- In Person

DPS – Headquarters- Waterbury
November 9, 2021, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training.

G0191 – ICS/EOC Interface – In Person

DPS – Headquarters- Waterbury
November 13, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800

Registration required via the State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

SEOC Partner Training-Virtual

November 17, 2021, 2:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100 and SEOC Orientation

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

December 2021

MGT-324 Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response and Recovery

UVM Alumni Silver Pavilion

December 15-16, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

January 2022

Day of Learning

Lake Morey Resort

January 20, 2022

March 2022

ICS 300- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents – In Person

DPS - Headquarters- Waterbury

March 15-17, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-100 and ICS- 200

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

April 2022

L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) - In Person

St. Michael's College

April 2-3, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: IS-120

Must attend all sessions to receive credit.

Registration required via the State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

The 2021 Virtual Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference happened in the afternoons of September 14th, 15th and 16th, with a total of 12 presentations over the three days. If you missed the conference and would like to see the presentations, we will be posting them to our YouTube channel shortly. Please visit <https://vem.vermont.gov/conference> for updates and a link to the sessions, when posted.

VEM Annual Awards

Emergency Management Director of the Year: Thomas Hanley, Middlebury

Middlebury Police Chief and Emergency Management Director Thomas Hanley has been honored as Vermont's 2021 Emergency Management Director of the year. The award is given each year to recognize the exemplary work of those who oversee, plan, and carry out their community's emergency management plans.

Over the past 18 months Chief Hanley has lead Middlebury's COVID-19 response. That has included the critical function of coordinating with Porter Hospital and Middlebury College among others to set up testing facilities, procure supplies, and plan for medical surges at healthcare facilities.

Throughout the pandemic Chief Hanley also ensured his constituents were provided with current COVID information. He prepared and distributed more than 220 bulletins released to the public sharing information from the Vermont Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control, the office of Governor Phil Scott, Vermont Emergency Management, and any source of information that would help protect the citizens of Middlebury and surrounding towns.



Emergency Management Director Certification

The Emergency Management Director Certification Program provides leaders in emergency management organizations with fundamental knowledge and skills to effectively manage local disasters. This robust program includes 58 hours of instruction time and participation in 2 exercises.

Vermont Emergency Management is proud to recognize the following individuals who achieved this distinction over the last year:

- Lee Dorf, Vermont Emergency Management
- Eric Forand, Vermont Emergency Management
- Erik Haversang, St. Michael's College
- Glenn Herrin, Vermont Emergency Management
- Laney Knapp, Department of Labor
- Victoria Littlefield, Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission
- Thomas Norton, St. Michael's College
- Steven Ragno, St. Michaels College
- Kaitlyn Root, St. Michaels College
- Elizabeth Vallatini, St. Michael's College
- Christian Vogt, St. Michael's College
- Maxwell Zwiener, St. Michael's College

If you are interested in learning about the Emergency Management Director Certification Program, please visit:

<https://vem.vermont.gov/programs/emd/certification> or contact: DPS.EMHSTraining@vermont.gov